



{In Archive} S. Texas county fights uranium mine proposal

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Associated Press

GOLIAD, Texas – Fearing contamination in the Evangeline Aquifer, Goliad County has joined with ranchers, environmentalists and economic development groups to fight a proposed uranium mine.

The Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District said it measured an increase in minerals and iron in wells during the past year as Uranium Energy Corp. explored for uranium in the area. The minerals resulted in clogged filters and discolored water.

County officials joined with the Sierra Club, local ranchers and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council this week to announce their intentions to fight the mine. The county, which has about 7,000 residents and is about 80 miles southeast of San Antonio, has already allotted \$200,000 for the campaign.

Uranium Energy Corp., which has offices in Canada and the southwestern U.S., is seeking a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a full-scale mining operation.

Company officials couldn't be reached for comment this week, but they have said that their exploration for uranium has nothing to do with the well contamination. They have cited a letter from the Railroad Commission of Texas that blames the contamination on "natural sources."

The company would use a method known as in situ mining, which involves injecting an oxygenated solution into the ground to help mobilize and leach out the uranium.

Local officials fear the mining is changing the flow of the Evangeline Aquifer, which could flush high levels of radium into the drinking supply. Radium has been found in test wells. The groundwater district commissioned an engineering study that found their concerns were valid.